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# THE HECKER FAMILY

JACOB HECKER  
MARY ANN NAGEL

*Married in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, 1830*  
*Located in Ohio, 1845*

*By EDWARD J. HECKER*

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
1930

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This sketch was prepared for the ninth annual reunion of the descendants of Jacob and Mary Ann Hecker, in the hundredth year after their marriage. The reunion was held on August 31, 1930, at the farm in Darke county, Ohio, on which the Heckers settled in 1853, and which is now the home of Clarence Eugene Jobes, a grandson. The writer is indebted to many members of the family for information and assistance



# THE HECKER FAMILY

Rev. John Egidius Hecker, a German Reformed minister, emigrated to America from Germany in 1751, and located in Northampton county, Pennsylvania. He was the progenitor of a large Hecker family, one branch of which, offspring of his grandson, Jacob Hecker, developed in Ohio.

In a "History of the Reformed Church in the United States, 1725-1792," by Rev. Prof. James I. Good, D. D., published by Daniel Miller in Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1899, is the following statement concerning John Egidius Hecker:

"John Egidius Hecker was born at Dillenburg, January 26, 1726, the son of the ducal attendant, John Wigand Hecker. He qualified at Philadelphia, September 23, 1751, and preached without ordination. He applied to the coetus [assembly] of 1752, recommended by Waldschmidt, but the coetus replied that it had not authority to ordain him, and admonished him not to preach, as he had not been ordained. As he came from Nassau, he had probably been acquainted with Nassau young men who came over with Schlatter in 1752. He preached at Tohickon and Lower Saucon. In 1758 he opened the church record at Upper Milford, where he continued until 1766, when he retired."

Dillenburg, mentioned above, is a city of five thousand inhabitants in the former duchy of Nassau, in the southwestern part of Prussia, Germany, about sixty miles southwest of the city of Cologne and the same distance north of Frankfort.

Northampton, Lehigh and Bucks counties are adjoining counties on the eastern boundary of Pennsylvania. Tohickon is in Bucks county. Saucona (which is probably the Lower Saucon mentioned) is in Lehigh county. Milford is in the northeastern part of Bucks county, about fifteen miles south of Allentown, the county seat of Lehigh county. The smaller towns do not appear on maps.

A letter by John F. Hecker, of West Brookfield, Ohio, dated



February 16, 1852, addressed to John V. Hecker, of Noroton, Connecticut (not a descendant of Rev. John Egidius Hecker), says: "My great-grandfather, John Egidius Hecker, brought with him from Germany a recommendation, dated June, 1751, given by I. E. Hoffman, Nassauish bailiff at Orenian. This recommendation is now (1852) in the possession of my father's eldest brother, Adam Hecker, now a resident of Allentown, Pennsylvania. In this recommendation is the following statement: 'John Egidius Hecker, son of the Illustrious Nassauish Dillenburgischen Equerry, performed his studies in Théology in Herburn, Nassau.' "

John F. Hecker, a son of the John F. Hecker mentioned in the preceding paragraph, wrote to Benjamin F. Hecker from Allentown, Pennsylvania, February 10, 1903, as follows: "About thirty years ago a monument was erected in honor of Rev. John Egidius Hecker. The church and cemetery are located near Petersville, a small village in More township, Northampton county, Pennsylvania, where he preached one hundred and fifty years ago, and died in the same locality. I was present when the monument was dedicated, but at that time we had very little of a record to be placed on the monument."

John Egidius Hecker had three sons and four daughters. The second son, Yost, had five sons and three daughters. One of these sons was Jacob Hecker, who was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, October 26, 1809, and died near Ft. Jefferson, Darke county, Ohio, August 3, 1889, aged seventy-nine years, nine months and seven days.

Jacob Hecker was married in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, early in 1830, to Mary Ann Nagel.

Mary Ann Nagel was born in Allentown, Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, May 10, 1810, and died October 2, 1892, aged eighty-two years, five months and twelve days. She was the daughter of Jacob Nagel, born 1785, of German descent, and Mary Savitz (or Sevets), of English descent. Mary Savitz was the daughter of Joseph Savitz, born in England in 1735, died 1794, and his wife, Gloy Dicter. Joseph Savitz was enrolled in the militia of North-



ampton county, Pennsylvania, in the Revolutionary War, serving as a private under Captain George Shriver. He is also mentioned as serving under Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Boehm in 1782. The record is to be found on pages 336 and 357, Vol. 8, Fifth Series, Pennsylvania Archives. The name of Colonel Severts (Savitz) is mentioned again on page 777 of the same volume, on the return of the Pennsylvania Militia and Flying Camp, under command of the Hon. Hugh Mercer, Esq., Brigadier General, Perth Amboy, October 8, 1776, in connection with a Jersey campaign of 1776. It is through the services of Colonel Joseph Savitz that a number of his descendants have become members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Jacob and Mary Ann Hecker lived in Allentown after their marriage until 1845, when they moved to the West, eventually settling near Ft. Jefferson and Weavers Station, in Darke county, Ohio. During their residence in Allentown eight children were born to them. Four more children were born in Ohio. All of the twelve children lived to maturity, were married and had children born to them. As nearly half the children born at that early day died in infancy or early childhood, this is a most unusual and remarkable record, indicating great vitality in the strain and intelligent care of the children. It is worthy of note that at the time of the preparation of this sketch of the family history, three of these children are living, namely: Mrs. Almena Jobes, aged ninety-five years, Greenville, Ohio; Edwin Augustus Hecker, aged eighty, New Madison, Ohio, and Clarence Llewellyn Hecker, aged seventy-five, Tippecanoe City, Ohio.

The first four generations of the Hecker family in America are shown by the following family tree, prepared by Benjamin F. Hecker a number of years ago. He also had notes on a large number of members of several branches of the family, scattered throughout Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio, but unfortunately did not get the work of arrangement completed. The years that have passed since his death in 1909 have made the notes practically valueless:



JOHN EGIDIUS HECKER

<u>Adam</u>	Jacob John Joseph Henry Mrs. Laudenslager Mrs. Reigley Kate	Stephen Jacob Daniel Henry Catherine Mrs. J. P. Ritter Warren
	Adam	William Joseph Eliza Gilbert Catherine Beitler Mary
	Paul	Anna Caroline Tillman Owen
	John	Edward Egidius John Franklin Orville Philimon
<u>Yost</u>	Egidius	William Mrs. Brickley
	Jacob	Caroline Benjamin F. Mary Ann Almena Sarah Ann Charles Henry Willoughby J. Albert M. Ann Maria Edwin A. Amanda Ellen Clarence Llewellyn
	Mrs. Woodring	
	Mrs. Kreiling	
	Mrs. Butz	
	Daniel	Joseph Franklin W. Stephen Daniel Charles Levi Malinda Polly
<u>Jonas</u>	William	Robert W.
	Joseph	James
	Jeremiah	Washington
	Charles	Wayne
<u>Mrs. Peter Troxell</u>	Peter	Lewis P.
<u>Mrs. Adam Troxell</u>	Julian	William F.
<u>Mrs. Bartholomew</u>	Polly	Mrs. Jane A. DeLong
<u>Mrs. Koch</u>		



The following pages give the descendants of Jacob and Mary Ann Hecker, to the fourth generation:

CAROLINE HECKER—Born Lehigh county, Penn., Dec. 25, 1830; died March 31, 1893; m. Benjamin C. Griffis.

James Albert Griffis, born June 6, 1863; m. Margaret Boomershine.

Albert E. Griffis, m. Joyce Britton.

Everett Kress Griffis, m. Sophia E. Brinson.

Virginia Beatrice, James Harlin, Max Everett (d.), Chester Elwood (d.), Edwin Earl (d.), Edward Leroy, Leo Eugene.

Ethel Griffis, m. Homer V. Jones.

Frances L., Maurice L., Mary Margaret, Thelma Joan, Gloria Joyce.

S. Caroline Griffis.

Hubert Q. Griffis.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HECKER—Born Lehigh county, Penn., Sept. 14, 1832; died May 2, 1909; m. Eliza Johanna Zimmer.

Effie Maria Hecker.

Edward Jacob Hecker, born Oct. 15, 1868; m. Harriet Louise Humann.

Sidney Ernestine Hecker, m. Herbert Warfel.

Sidney Ernestine, Diantha, George Huntington.

Gertrude June Hecker, m. Charles Garrison Winders.

Margaret Barbara Hecker.

Edward Jacob Hecker, Jr.

Sidney Hecker, m. Sarah Wilson (Messinger).

Mary Louise Hecker, m. C. M. Kiesling.

Richard Hecker.

Charles Marion Hecker, m. S. Jean Cummings.

Charles Todd Hecker, m. Mary Elizabeth Frietsche.

Jane Burke, Jean Todd.

Margaret Hecker, m. Al J. Niederkorn.

Louis Martindell Hecker.

June Hecker, m. George A. Jobes.



MARY ANN HECKER—Born Lehigh county, Penn., Dec. 31, 1833;  
died —; m. William Harbison.

Emma Harbison, m. — Peterson.

ALMENA HECKER—Born Lehigh county, Penn., Aug. 30, 1835;  
m. John Alexander Jobes. *m 1859*

John Farren Jobes, d. *1862*

Mary Jobes, d. *1862*

Frank Hecker Jobes, born Sept. 11, 1861; m. Florence May  
Riffle.

Infant daughter, d.

Harold Riffle Jobes, m. Juliet Olive Reid.

James Franklin, Jean Louise.

Louise, d.

George Alexander Jobes, born Jan. 8, 1864; m. Josephine  
Wilson; m. June Hecker.

John Cassatt Jobes, d.

Robert W. Jobes, m. Alma Weidenhammer.

James Allen Jobes (adopted and name changed to  
Condon).

James A. Jobes, m. Catharine Bohrn.

Richard Jobes, born April 8, 1901; m. —.

Lawrence Ulysses Jobes, born May 27, 1867; m. Alice  
Thompson. *SJA*

Infant daughter, d.

Mabel Jobes, m. J. R. Baird.

Beatrice Ann, Mary Alice, Jane, Janice, Carolyn  
Jean, Richard Thompson.

Clarence Eugene Jobes, born May 27, 1867; m. Gertrude  
Laurimore; m. Harriet Ridenour Hand.

Genevieve Jobes, m. Lawrence J. Brunton.

Eugene H. Jobes.

Almena Jobes, m. Harry J. Brenneman.

Edwin Jobes Brenneman, m. Lee Nolta.

Virginia Lee, Martha Jane.



SARAH ANN HECKER—Born Lehigh county, Penn., Feb. 14, 1837; died Sept. 8, 1921; m. Curtis William M. Otwell.

Louella Otwell, m. B. J. Dalton.

William B. Dalton, m. Margery B. —.

Loring Dewitt, Margery, Burris, Curtis William.

Nellie Marvin Dalton, m. Marley Brown.

Marley Bob, Dalton, Bettie.

Beatrice Louella Dalton, m. George H. Buecking.

Beatrice.

Curtis William Otwell, m. Ethel Havemeyer.

Eunice Otwell, m. Demetrio Carvojal.

Gloy Otwell.

Gerald A. Otwell, m. Rose Penn.

Geraldine Otwell, m. Charles S. Robinson.

Gerald, Frank.

CHARLES HENRY HECKER—Born Lehigh county, Penn., March 7, 1839; died Oct. 22, 1916; m. Susan E. Bunger.

Emma N. Hecker, m. Eli F. Reichard.

Edith May Reichard, m. L. Frank McClaskey.

Charles R., d.

Ethel Osa Reichard, m. Harry Lambert.

Kenneth F., d.; Edith Margaret, E. Maxine, James E.

Eldon E. Reichard.

Jacob Elias Hecker.

Samuel A. Hecker, m. Laura Nicholas.

Charles, Carl, Clarence, Uriel.

Charles A. Hecker.

Edwin W. Hecker, d.

Levelen A. Hecker, m. Mary Owen.

James V. Hecker, m. Mabel Rudisill.

Robert E., Elsie M., Lois Edith.



WILLOUGHBY JACOB HECKER—Born Lehigh county, Penn., Oct. 31, 1841; died Jan. 11, 1913; m. Mary Jane Watt (Lowery).

May Hecker, m. Albert W. Miller.

Pauline.

Sherman Hecker, m. Emma Lamb.

Mary Lorena Hecker, m. Bryan Ratliff.

Orville H. Hecker, m. Clista Searer.

Marrietta, Bettylou.

Ilah R. Hecker.

Beulah Leona Hecker, m. Ora Ray.

Jackie Delos.

Minnie Hecker, m. B. F. Ashelman, d.

ALBERT MELVIN HECKER—Born Lehigh county, Penn., March 7, 1844; died Sept. 27, 1897; m. Melissa Leas.

Frank A. Hecker, born April 25, 1870; m. Tura Belle Zint.

Marie Hecker, m. William James Gallagher.

Robert Morgan.

Marjorie Hecker, m. Hartman Eugene Olson.

Charlene Marie.

Vinnie Blanche Hecker, m. Harry Sentman.

Edward Samuel, Harold Albert, Marion Virginia.

ANN MARIA HECKER—Born Butler county, O., Nov. 4, 1846; died Sept. 11, 1883; m. Spafford Throp.

Walter Alonzo Throp, m. Bertha Denise.

Spafford Throp, m. Jane Brown.

Bessie Throp, m. Harry Pauley.

George Spafford Throp, m. Gertie Myrtle Hill.

Margaret Louise Throp, m. Russell R. Fling.

Russell Sharon, Margaret Ellen.

Herbert Lawrence Throp, m. Vida Lenora Hill.

Herman Don Throp.

Hazel Irene Throp, m. Holbert B. Alley.

Helen Reva Throp, m. J. R. Hornaday.

Mary Katherine Throp, m. Herbert Harding Perry.

Fay Throp.

May Throp.

Walter Ray Throp.

Eva Throp, m. William T. McGregor.



EDWIN AUGUSTUS HECKER—Born Montgomery county, O., March 31, 1850; m. Jennie Koch.

Edna Hecker.

AMANDA ELLEN HECKER—Born Butler county, O., Oct. 2, 1851; died Jan. 8, 1909; m. William Henry Wagner.

Eva Wagner, m. Lyman O. Miller.

Mary Ellen Wagner, m. Guy W. Frantz.

Edna Merle Wagner, m. Paul H. Brown.

Robert Hecker, Betty Jane, Mary Louise, Thomas A.,  
Doris Eileen.

John Wagner.

CLARENCE LLEWELLYN HECKER—Born Darke county, O., Nov. 18, 1854; m. Laura Emma Malcom.

George Malcom Hecker, born March 11, 1885.

Alonzo Boon Hecker, born Dec. 4, 1891; m. Agnes Margaret Bolte.

Joan; infant son, d.

Basil Silas Hecker, born Nov. 29, 1894.

DeWitt Talmage Hecker, born Dec. 9, 1896; m. Ruth C. Lauber.

Jack Elsworth, Mary Alice, Dale.

Leland James Hecker, born April 16, 1900; m. Leona Farel Miller.

Clarence Robert, Betty Odean, Dorothy Jean.

Lemoin Adair Hecker, born Dec. 28, 1907, d.



At the time of the death of Jacob Hecker, in 1889, Frank Hecker Jobes, a grandson, was the editor of a newspaper at Ansonia, Ohio, and wrote and published the following biographical sketch, which has many historical details worthy of preservation. A few changes have been made in the sketch to make it conform to the facts shown by documentary evidence:

### JACOB HECKER

The subject of this sketch was born in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, October 26, 1809, and died near Ft. Jefferson, Darke county, Ohio, Saturday, August 3, 1889, at the age of seventy-nine years, nine months and seven days.

At an early date in the history of America, his grandfather, Egidius Hecker, came from Germany as a missionary preacher. Egidius was the father of seven children. One son, Adam, was a lawyer; another was Yost, a tailor.

Yost Hecker was married to Regine Same, and lived in Lehigh county, Pennsylvania, where there were born to them eight children. Betsey, the eldest, married George Kreiling; Mary married Woodring; Catherine married Solomon Butz; Adam was a day laborer and married Magdaline Gable; Paul was a tailor and married Betsey Doubt; Jacob, a tailor and silversmith, married Mary Ann Nagel; Egidius married Mary Berry.

Jacob was the seventh child and was left an orphan while quite young, his father having met with a sudden death. He was walking along during a dark night and stumbled and fell over a low stump, falling heavily with his breast upon another, from the effects of which he died. In consequence of this early and unnatural death of their father, young Jacob and his brothers and sisters were thrown upon the world to fight life's battles for themselves.

In 1830 Jacob was married to Mary Ann Nagel, the daughter of Jacob Nagel, who was of German descent. Her mother was of English descent, her father, whose name was Sevets, having come



from England. He became prominent in political circles and was elected to the assembly and became a general.

After their marriage they lived in Allentown, Pennsylvania, until April 2, 1845, when they started West in a two-horse wagon with eight children, passing through nearly the whole length of Pennsylvania, northern Ohio and Indiana, into southern Michigan, through the corner of Illinois into Wisconsin, and back into Illinois, finally locating near Chicago. They remained at that place but two weeks, however, and, not being satisfied with the country, started for the home of his brother, Paul, in Butler county, Ohio, where they arrived the last week in June. They remained there, on a farm about midway between Seven Mile and Jacksonborough, for a year and eight months, when they moved to Montgomery county. They remained there for three years, during which time he raised tobacco and worked at his two trades —tailor and silversmith. They moved back to Butler county in the year 1851.

After about two years, when his hard-earned accumulations, which were attained by the most strict economy, amounted to \$700, he one day started out with his box of silversmith's tools, telling the loving and devoted wife and children that he would not return till he purchased a farm. He came to Darke county, having had favorable reports from some neighbors who had taken up their residence in the "new country," first looking at lands in the vicinity of Arcanum. Not liking the flat and level surface, he continued his search westward among the picturesque hills of historic Ft. Jefferson. A mile west of the old fort he found a tract of land that pleased him, and he agreed to take the farm provided a description of it would meet with approval from his wife, who was always counseled in all important or minor transactions. Upon his return home, the description which followed settled the transaction as soon as he mentioned the fact that there were a couple of fine springs of excellent water on the farm. He wrote back that he would take the farm, in due time received word to come on and take possession, and the month of April, 1853, found the



family installed in their new home on a farm mostly woodland. He and his sons immediately went to work raising tobacco and clearing the land, which soon was made a most desirable home and farm. He also worked at both his trades of tailor and silversmith for many years, until he gave up the former because of his increase of flesh, and later on he was compelled to give up the latter on account of failing eyesight.

Checkered as was their career previous to this time, after all it was pleasant when comfort and ease were attained, to sit by the side of Grandpa and Grandma Hecker, to hear them relate the many incidents and hardships of their early life in Pennsylvania, their great trip over the Alleghany mountains in the two-horse wagon to the new West and back again to Ohio, and their trials and unceasing toil to make for them their comfortable home for their declining years.

After their stay in Ohio the number of their children was increased to twelve, there being six sons and six daughters, the youngest, a son, being born a year after their locating in Darke county. All the children lived to marry and have families of their own; two of the daughters, however, have preceded their father to the infinite glorious beyond.

It is a consolation to the living to know that he neglected not the duties he owed to his God, and in his early life put his trust in Him "who doeth all things well." He became a member of the Reformed Church while yet in his native state. After coming West, when the opportunity presented itself, he again connected himself with the same branch of God's people, and remained faithful to His requirements and commands, which were to him a joyous pleasure, until the Master signaled that his long life's labors were o'er, all well done, "Enter into thy reward," and he passed into peaceful repose with his final words on earth, "It is all right," which gives us the assurance that he met the Redeemer with clearness of conscience on the bright and happy shores of eternal joy. Few are the remaining days of the loving Christian companion and mother who is but a half-year the junior of her



companion and friend, with whom over fifty-nine happy years of marital bliss she spent.

As to his character, honesty and integrity, no man can say aught against it. His dealings were always in accordance with right between man and man. He was liberal with the church and charitable with the world and suffering humanity so far as his means would admit, but none were made acquainted with his charitable acts.

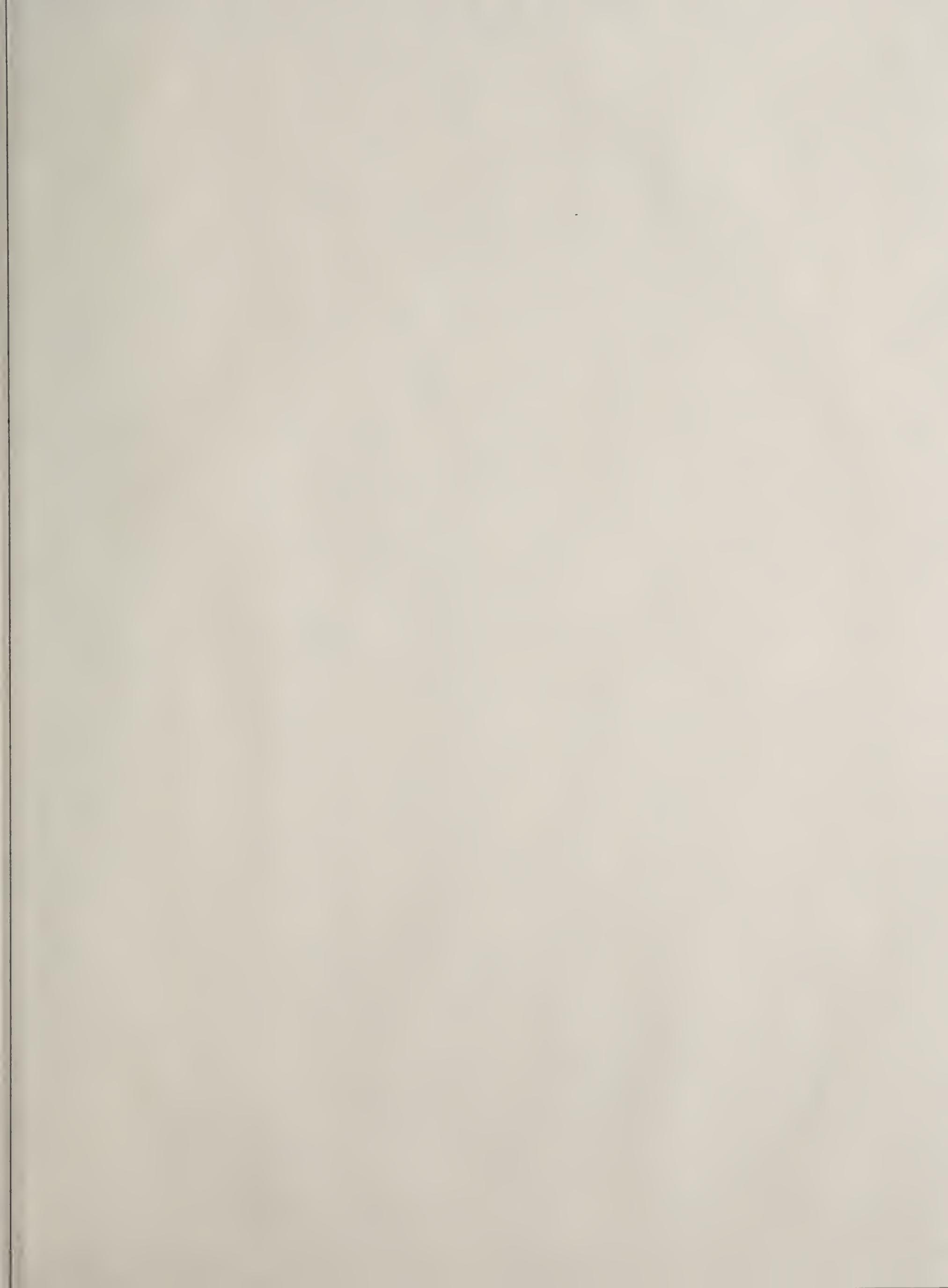
The funeral services of Grandfather Hecker were held from the Union Church, at Ft. Jefferson, on Monday afternoon, August 5, 1889, conducted by Rev. J. R. Hunter, of New Paris, assisted by Rev. John Stuck, of Greenville, who was his pastor thirty years ago, and who gave a few experiences of himself and his deceased Christian brother. The services were attended by a large concourse of relatives, friends and neighbors, to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the worthy man. The earthly remains were interred in a vault in the beautiful cemetery adjoining Ft. Jefferson on the south.

“There is no death! What seems so is transition,  
This life of mortal breath  
Is but a suburb of life elysian,  
Whose portal we call death.”











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